

**Governance Committee**  
**Minutes**  
September 15, 2005

Present

Suzanne Gries (Committee Chair), Michael Raymond, Bill Anderson, Alicia McRay, Kelly Boston, and Lou Colwell

Guests

Kim Kane, Idaho DD Council

Staff

Ed Holen and Stephanie Benfield

Adjustments to the Agenda

Add discussion on updating policies, specifically policies that would need to be updated if the Council was to be made into a separate agency.

Minutes

Bill noted that on the second page the sentence that reads "The committee discussed reviewed..." needed to be changed to The committee reviewed and discussed. Mike Raymond moved to approve the July minutes as amended, Bill Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Guidelines for Members Attending Conferences and Training Reading 05-G-04

Lou Colwell presented her ideas around changing the language to reflect that Council Members that represent state agencies have their agency pay for the expenses around trainings and conferences.

Ed pointed out that he would like to be flexible on this point, as there have been times that it benefits the Council to have an agency representative attend something that their agency is unable to pay for. The Committee agreed to have the policy read that ordinarily the state agency pays for it's employees training and conference attendance.

Ed agreed to make Lou's suggested changes.

Mike Raymond moved to bring these Guidelines as amended forward to be voted on by the Full Council. Bill Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

## Policies to Update Reading 05-G-05

Ed asked for the committee's input on how the process of updating policies. The committee agreed that Ed will update all policies that need a simple cosmetic change, and inform the Full Council.

Lou Colwell volunteered to review the natural environments and early intervention policy and bring it to the next committee meeting. The Committee agreed that reviewing and updating the charter would be a staff assignment.

Suzanne will make a request to Vicki the Chair of the membership committee to bring forward the member attendance policy.

At the November committee meeting the group agreed to have a brainstorming session on a policy for discretionary funds.

The committee agreed to also have a brainstorming session on the structure of workgroups, committees, and the Full Council meetings.

## Meeting with the Governor

George Walker, Janet Adams, and Ed met with Governor Gregoire to discuss a couple of issues. The first was reducing the number of council members, by removing agency representation that is not mandated in the federal law. Those agencies would be Children's Administration, Community Trade and Economic Development, and Mental Health.

The second issue discussed was due to dissatisfaction with CTED services, and the high cost for overhead, Ed asked if the Council could become it's own separate small state agency. The Governor was not interested in that plan, but would support the Council becoming a non-profit. Ed stated the down side of that would be staff would lose state employee status.

The Governor asked Ed to bring forward a plan to become a non-profit at a future meeting.

Initial policies that the group came up with that we would need to have in place would be:

- Financial Policies
- A Treasurer position on the Council
- Personnel Policies
- Compensation plan, medical and dental for staff

Susan thought this would be a long process just to do the planning. Bill asked if the federal government had any provisions on non-profit status. Ed said that there is not a clear answer to that question.

Two other state DD Council's have gone to non-profit status, but the feds have not provided any guidelines around if a Council is a non-profit what it will look like.

The third item discussed with the Governor was the DDETF, which wants to continue to be staffed by the Council.

Suzanne asked if someone from a non-profit could come talk to the committee? Ed asked and the committee agreed it would be good to have someone from the Montana Council come and share their experiences with the committee.

#### Report to Council

- Reviewed changes to policies that are both minor and major
- Guidelines for Council member trainings and conference attendance
- George, as the chair will inform the Council of the discussion with the Governor and non-profit status.

#### November Agenda

- Review policies drafted by Lou Colwell and staff
- Discuss Meeting structure and discretionary funds policies

Mike Raymond moved to adjourn the meeting, Lou Colwell seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.